

EXHIBIT

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Madame Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Charlotte Wevers and I am from Missoula. I have been a Foster Grandparent for 14 years. I am also a wife, mother and retired nurse.

I am here today to speak in support of increasing the Aging Services budget to 10 million for the biennium. I am in support of this because:

A year ago I had to turn my home over to my children because I could not afford the taxes. I get \$870 a month Social Security – half goes to my rent. The stipend I receive as a Foster Grandparent partially pays for my medical insurance, groceries, and medications. By the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month I have no money left. I run out gas and have even run out of food. I do not even qualify for food stamps because I make too much money. It makes me mad that I have to ask my children for help with food and gas.

Some of the children I work with at school need all the help they can get. One child from a broken family was totally overwhelmed with school expectations. He was considered as a lost cause. I decided to work on his self esteem before anything else and low and behold he started to work with me. His school work improved and he became neater in his work and personal hygiene. He is now in high school and doing well despite all odds. He is just one of many who desperately need our help.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and again, please provide the funding to continue these important services.

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